

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 EA-06 NEA-07 ISO-00 AID-01 SS-15
NSC-06 /047 W

-----073494 200455Z /21

P R 200150Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8827
INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
S/AMEMBASSY PARIS 2087
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
USLO PEKING
AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMCONSUL MADRAS
CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 NEW DELHI 1009

LONDON FOR CODEL WOLFF

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PARM, OREP (WOLFF, LESTER)
SUBJECT: MEETING OF CODEL WOLFF AND PRIME MINISTER DESAI

1. THE FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF THE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN
CODEL WOLFF AND PRIME MINISTER DESAI ON JANUARY 18:

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2. THE PRIME MINISTER OPENED THE MEETING WITH A DISCUSSION
OF INDO-AMERICAN RELATIONS. HE SAID THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES
ARE VERY CLOSE AND SHOULD BE ON THEIR GUARD AGAINST BEING
SWAYED BY THOSE WHO DO NOT VALUE THIS RELATIONSHIP. THERE
HAVE BEEN UPS AND DOWNS IN OUR RELATIONS BUT THE PRIME MIN-
ISTER WAS CONFIDENT THIS WOULD NOT BE REPEATED.

3. ASKED ABOUT INDIA'S ROLE IN THE INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ARENAS, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID INDIA DID NOT SEEK ANY SPECIAL ROLE. FIRST, INDIA HAD TO ACHIEVE WHAT IT BELIEVED IN FOR ITSELF. INDIA'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE WORLD WOULD BE TO HELP FIND PEACE.

4. THE PRIME MINISTER SPOKE AT LENGTH ABOUT THE ARMS PROBLEM. IF THE MONEY USED FOR ARMS COULD BE SAVED, THIS WOULD REMOVE POVERTY FROM THE WORLD. HE OBSERVED THAT THE U.S. WAS ADDING TO ITS OWN ARSENAL. REFERRING TO THE NUCLEAR PROBLEM, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE U.S. WAS TRYING TO PREVENT INDIA FROM PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY. HE TOLD THE CONGRESSMEN THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO PERSUADE THEM OF INDIA'S POSITION ON THE NUCLEAR QUESTION BUT REALIZED THAT THERE WAS NO POSSIBILITY IN THE SHORT PERIOD OF THEIR VISIT. FOR HIS PART, HE SAID THAT HE WAS PREPARED TO BE CONVINCED THAT HE WAS IN THE WRONG. INDIA WANTS NUCLEAR WEAPONS TO DISAPPEAR TOTALLY BUT UNDERSTANDS THAT REALISTICALLY THIS CANNOT BE ACHIEVED TOMORROW. THE US AND USSR MUST AGREE NOT TO HAVE ANY FURTHER NUCLEAR TESTS, NOT TO ADD TO THEIR NUCLEAR ARSENALS, AND TO AGREE TO REDUCE THEIR NUCLEAR ARSENALS IN A GIVEN PERIOD OF TIME. ONLY IF THEY DID THOSE THREE THINGS WOULD THEY HAVE THE MORAL RIGHT TO MAKE DEMANDS OF OTHERS. IF ASKED BY THE INDIAN PEOPLE TO DEVELOP NUCLEAR WEAPONS, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE WOULD LEAVE OFFICE. THERE WAS NO UNANIMITY IN INDIA ON THE NUCLEAR WEAPONS QUESTION. MUCH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DEPENDENT ON THE ABILITY OF THE LEADER ON THIS ISSUE. IN A PERHAPS AMBIGUOUS STATEMENT, THE PM OFFERED THE SERVICES OF INDIA AS A "BUFFER", IF NEEDED, IN US-USSR DISARMAMENT DISCUSSIONS.

5. ON TARAPUR, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THERE IS AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. THE U.S. WAS IN BREACH OF CONTRACT, BUT HE REALIZED THAT INDIA COULD NOT SUE.

6. ASKED WHETHER HE FAVORED UNILATERAL DISARMAMENT, DESAI SAID HE DID NOT. THE U.S. AND THE SOVIETS HAD TO REACH AGREEMENT BETWEEN THEMSELVES. HE WAS NOT CONCERNED ABOUT THE ABSENCE OF AGREEMENT BY CHINA AS IT HAS NOT REACHED ITS STRENGTH. WHEN THE U.S. AND USSR AGREED ON DISARMAMENT, FRANCE AND CHINA WOULD FOLLOW. THE PRIME MINISTER PRAISED THE PEACE INITIATIVE OF PRESIDENT SADAT AND SAID THERE WAS A NEED FOR A LIKE INITIATIVE IN THE FIELD OF DISARMAMENT. DESAI CRITICIZED U.S. DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEUTRON BOMB. IT RAISED THE LEVEL OF FEAR AND THIS ESCALATED THE ARMS RACE. A CONGRESSMAN OBSERVED THAT THE USSR UNLIKE THE U.S. HAD DEVELOPED AN EXTENSIVE CIVIL DEFENSE SYSTEM WHICH WAS DESTABILIZING TO THE NUCLEAR BALANCE.

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NSC-06 /047 W
-----073593 200458Z /21

P R 200150Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8828
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AMEMBASSY DACCA
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LONDON FOR CODEL WOLFF

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

7. ASKED WHETHER HE THOUGHT THE U.S. HAD A MILITARY ROLE IN
THIS PART OF THE WORLD TO SUPPORT PEACE, DESAI REPLIED: CAN
UNTRUTH BRING IN TRUTH, CAN VIOLENCE PRODUCE NON-VIOLENCE,
CAN INCREASED ARMAMENTS RESULT IN DISARMAMENT? A LONG DIS-
CUSSION ENSUED IN WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER ACKNOWLEDGED THAT
VIOLENCE WAS JUSTIFIABLE IF USED TO FIGHT SUPPRESSION. ARMS
WERE NEEDED FOR SELF DEFENSE. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT WHEN
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VIOLENCE WAS USED, A NATION SUFFERED FOR A LONG TIME THERE-AFTER.

8. DESAI SAID THAT INDIA HAS BEEN REMISS IN PROMOTING CO-OPERATION AMONG THE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION. AS THE BIGGEST NATION II IS INDIA'S DUTY, HE SAID, TO CREATE CONFIDENCE AMONG ITS NEIGHBORS IN INDIA. HE SAID THEY ARE SUSPICIOUS OF INDIA. IT IS NOT THEIR DUTY TO TRUST ME. INDIA SEEKS TO ESTABLISH A FAMILY RELATIONSHIP WITH ITS NEIGHBORS. THUS FAR ONLY QUESTIONS REMAIN WITH PAKISTAN. INDIA ALREADY IS ON GOOD TERMS WITH IRAN AND AFGHANISTAN. RELATIONS WITH BANGLADESH ARE NOW MUCH BETTER, AND NEPAL IS COMPLETELY HAPPY WITH INDIA.

9. ASKED WHY HE THOUGHT THE DOLLAR WAS UNDER PRESSURE, THE PRIME MINISTER REPLIED WITH A CRITICAL DISCUSSION OF THE U.S. ECONOMY. AFFLUENCE, HE SAID, PRODUCED HABITS OF WASTE. PRODUCTION WAS MAINTAINED ONLY BY WASTING. HE CITED THE OBSOLESCENCE OF CARS AND THE WASTAGE OF FOOD. WHERE, HE ASKED, IS THE END TO GROWTH OF INCOME, PROSPERITY, DESIRE AND CONVENIENCE? THEY THREATEN TO DEPRIVE US OF OUR USE OF HANDS AND FEET. IF THE U.S. SOLVES THIS PROBLEM IT WILL SOLVE ITS DOLLAR PROBLEM. CHAIRMAN WOLFF STATED THAT THERE WAS COMPETITION FOR THE WASTE TO WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER HAD REFERRED. THIS RESULTED IN IMPROVED TECHNOLOGY AND PROGRESS. HE CITED THE SPACE PROGRAM WHICH INITIALLY HAD BEEN QUESTIONED BY MANY. THE PRIME MINISTER REJOINED THAT SPACE WAS USED FOR BOTH COMMUNICATIONS AND SPYING. HE URGED THAT AMERICA USE ITS PRODUCTION TO BENEFIT OTHER PEOPLE AND RECOGNIZED THAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING THIS BUT SAID MORE COULD BE DONE. THE U.S., HE SAID, IS ABUSED BY THOSE IT HAS HELPED. HE FOUND THE ANSWER TO THIS IN THE "UGLY AMERICAN." IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR THOSE HELPING OTHERS NOT TO VIOLATE THEIR SELF RESPECT. THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THIS WAS NOT A SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM TODAY.

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10. THE PRIME MINISTER EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THIS CHANCE TO EXCHANGE VIEWS DIRECTLY WITH HIS VISITORS AND SAID THAT HE PLANNED TO VISIT THE U.S. IN MAY, "GOD WILLING." CHAIRMAN WOLFF INVITED THE PRIME MINISTER TO TALK TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DURING HIS VISIT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRIME MINISTER, MEETINGS, CODELS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978NEWDE01009
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780030-0254
Format: TEL
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780140/aaaabhrw.tel
Line Count: 217
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
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Office: ACTION H
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3741072
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEETING OF CODEL WOLFF AND PRIME MINISTER DESAI
TAGS: PARM, OREP, US, IN, (WOLFF, LESTER)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/021fc7e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014